



Good Neighbor News

For neighbors and friends of Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful
June 2013

Working together to improve our community's environment

SHOOT 'EM OFF & CLEAN 'EM UP THIS 4TH OF JULY

With the 4th of July holiday fast approaching thoughts of time with family and friends, backyard barbecues and fireworks are what's on most people's minds. In addition to the enjoyment of celebrating our nation's independence, Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) asks community members to also consider the less glamorous side of this popular holiday - the cleanup. Every year following Independence Day the streets of Lincoln and other communities in Lancaster County become littered with fireworks debris. It is the responsibility of those shooting off fireworks to clean up after themselves, and there are several reasons why it is important to do so.

Removing litter is essential to a clean and safe community. People are more likely to litter in an area that is already littered and not cared for. A few pieces of trash can lead to more litter, graffiti, illegal dumping and many other unsightly problems. Cleaning up fireworks debris is also part of being a good neighbor. Wind, water, traffic and animals can transport litter onto other's property, and they will be stuck cleaning up after someone else's mess.

In addition to its effect on communities, fireworks debris can also impact the natural environment. Left unattended, fireworks debris is washed down storm drains and into streams, rivers and lakes. Once in the environment the debris decreases the aesthetic value of an area and poses a risk to wildlife. Fireworks are made from several potentially harmful substances, including gunpowder and various metallic compounds. These substances can pollute air, water and soil.

This summer KLLCB is working with community partners to encourage residents to clean up their fireworks debris and to decrease the negative effects it can have on the community and the environment. The main focus of this program will be to work with Neighborhood Associations and other community groups to combat the fireworks debris problem. This includes distributing educational material reminding

residents to clean up after themselves, providing resources for Neighborhood Associations to conduct a cleanup after the Holiday and conducting before and after neighborhood surveys to determine the effectiveness of the program.

In addition to working with Neighborhood Associations, KLLCB is partnering with retail fireworks stands to promote fireworks debris cleanup and making cleanup information available through various media outlets.

Whether you are celebrating the 4th of July with friends and family at a neighborhood block party or on your own, remember it is your responsibility to clean up after yourself when shooting off fireworks. By doing so you are keeping your community clean, being a good neighbor and supporting a healthy natural environment. This 4th of July start with a boom and end with a broom. Help keep Lincoln and Lancaster County clean.



For more information:

lincoln.ne.gov

Keyword: kllcb

Oak Lake Cleanup

The City of Lincoln is hosting its annual Uncle Sam Jam fireworks extravaganza on July 3rd. Volunteer with the City's Watershed Management Division to help clean up Oak Lake after the party. No need to sign up - just show up and help keep our environment clean. **Saturday July 6th from 10am-1pm.**

Good Neighbor News June 2013



LIVING IN A CLEAN COUNTY

Thanks to the neighborhood associations, schools, community groups and individuals who work closely with KLLCB, we can once again say residents of Lancaster County live in clean communities. In June KLLCB's Advisory Committee conducted the annual Community Appearance Index, a visual survey detailing the amount of litter in Lincoln. The Index gives a score of 1 to 4 (1=minimal litter, 4=highly littered) and this year Lincoln scored a 1.35, meaning a majority of the City has little to no litter. KLLCB also recently finished the Cleanest High School Campus Competition, where 10 schools are surveyed for litter three times per school year. The winning schools were Norris High (1.27), Lincoln Northeast (1.33) and Lincoln Southeast (1.33). Congratulations to the winning schools and the residents of Lancaster County for keeping clean, healthy and safe communities.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department's next Household Hazardous Waste Collection is scheduled for August 24th at Veyance Technologies. For more information visit lincoln.ne.gov keyword: household.

COMMUNITY CLEANUP CORNER

In each issue of Good Neighbor News, the Community Cleanup Corner will focus on a litter prevention or waste reduction issue that impacts the natural environment of Lincoln & Lancaster County. The topic for this issue is cigarette butt litter.

Did you know cigarette butts are the most littered item in America? Recent research by Keep America Beautiful showed 65% of cigarettes are littered, and butts make up 38% of all roadway litter. The International Coastal Cleanup project identified cigarette butts as over 30% of debris collected around America's waterways. KLLCB is currently working on a project with the Downtown Lincoln Association to reduce cigarette butt litter in downtown Lincoln. Stay tuned for more info on this project.

More information on cigarette litter:

[Watch the video](#) below from RethinkButts.org and get a new perspective on cigarette butt litter. The website is a great resource for more information on this issue.



KLLCB NEWS

****On June 26 and 27 the KLLCB Coordinator attended Keep Nebraska Beautiful's annual conference in Nebraska City. The conference theme was "Keys to Success" and provided many great resources to develop the KLLCB program. It was also an opportunity to network with other Keep Nebraska Beautiful affiliates. There are 21 affiliates across the State.**

****Volunteers are wanted to assist with KLLCB programs. Litter cleanups, storm drain marking and assistance at household hazardous waste collections are some of the ways community members can support KLLCB. Volunteers are critical to the organization's success, with over 1,000 volunteers providing 4,500 hours of service in 2012.**

Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful

3140 N St, Lincoln, NE 68510

(402) 441-8035 kllcb@lincoln.ne.gov lincoln.ne.gov (Keyword: kllcb)